THE SEVENTH DAY.

4th March 1912.

SUBJECTS.

The Assembly met again at 11 A. M. on Monday, the 4th March 1912.

The attitude of the Government towards the Aided and the Unaided schools.

Mr. K. M. Mamman Mappila (Member, Thiruvella taluk) represented that, though the subject was dealt with in the last Session of the Assembly, and though the Government have passed a Proceedings on those representations, yet he thought it necessary to bring the subject again to the notice of the Government, because the people were afraid of the Education Code and the policy which it had inaugurated. Several provisions of the Code were ill-suited to the condition of the people. Since the advent of the Code, most of the Private Secondary Schools, which had formerly come into existence were fast dying out. While the rules of the Code were strictly enforced in regard to the Private schools, the attitude of the Government towards the Departmental schools was to overlook the defects. The Government say that feeble schools should cease to exist. This should not be the policy. It was the duty of the Government to help such schools and not kill them. A parent did not kill his feeble children. Private schools came into existence because the Government first encouraged them. Now they wanted to kill them. It was doubtful whether Private schools alone were feeble. The Departmental schools were also feeble. The Member therefore urged that the Government should show more sympathy to the feeble Private schools.

The Member agreed with the representations made by Mr. P. K. Kesava Pillai (Member, Trivandrum taluk) except in regard to his statement that the Private schools were conducted as commerical concerns. The Member was the Manager of the Mar Gregorious Memorial Higher Grade Secondary School at Thiruvella. Many schools were conducted by the Christians. These schools were conducted for the good of the community and for religion, and not for lucre. If there existed schools which were conducted for profit, they should of course be discouraged. The Education Department had no confidence in the Managers and their schools. The treatment accorded to the headmasters of the Private schools at the last School Leaving Certificate Examination was an instance in point. They were compelled to stand outside the examination hall

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and identify their boys. The Member saw no reason why they should not be made Superintendents. He urged that no distinction should be shown between a Departmental and a Private school in this respect. There was considerable difficulty in getting grants. The Education Code did not fix the proportion of the Manager's contribution. The site, buildings etc., were really the Manager's contribution. The Education Department insisted on further monthly or annual contributions. Only rich Managers could make such contributions. The Education Department should not require the Manager to conribute more than the initial equipment.

In calculating the school income for estimating the grant, only the fees actually collected should be taken into account and not the fees for all the boys of the school.

Dewan:—Then you would give away any number of scholarships.

The Member said that the Government might prescribe the number of scholarships to be given in a school and pointed out that the pay of the peons and watchmen must be included under the items of expenditure in estimating the grant. They were as indispensable for the maintenance of the schools as the teachers were. He also spoke of the delay experienced in getting grants for the appliances purchased according to the suggestions of the Inspectors. The Member proposed that, if a reply sanctioning the purchase of things, was not received within a prescribed time, the Manager might be allowed to treat it as sanctioned.

The present practice of leaving to the discretion of the Director the subject for which a license might be granted, was working serious hardship. The Member proposed that the license should be issued for the subjects for which the head master and the Manager recommended the applicant.

85 per cent of attendance in each of the terms was excessive. The working days of the second term consisted of about 50 days, and if a boy absented himself for 7 days, he lost his term. The Member proposed that 75 per cent of the entire attendance might be allowed, instead of 85 per cent in each of the terms.

Dewan:—I think that we shall amend the rule and calculate the percentage of attendance for both the terms put together.

The Member next pointed out that the Managers were compelled by the Inspectors to have 85 per cent attendance

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for all classes, though the Code prescribed the percentage only for the School Final Class.

The Member proposed that a margin of 5 boys in addition to the sanctioned strength of each class, *viz.*, 35, should be allowed in certain cases of emergency, without putting the Manager to the necessity of dividing the class into divisions.

The Member said that the Managers should be allowed a free hand in the matter of granting free scholarships, with a view to encourage poor and deserving students, who were generally found to come out successful and that the Government should not insist on sanction for this purpose.

Dewan—That is a question we are going to consider. I recognise that a certain amount of encouragement should be given to poor and deserving students. The Aided schools will be allowed the same privileges as may be given to the Departmental schools in this respect.

The Member said that the present practice in regard to the granting of holidays was that a list of the holidays should be submitted at the beginning of the year for approval and that, if, in the course of the year, the Manager wanted to give a holiday on any important occasion, that could be done only after obtaining the sanction of the Director. This sometimes put Managers to inconvenience. He therefore proposed that the Managers might be allowed the privilege of giving a holiday in anticipation of sanction, in substitution of a holiday on the approved list.

The Member represented that at present the Director's order was final in the matter of applications for grants. The Managers spent large sums of money under the belief that they would get grants. If then the Director refused a grant, no appeal lay to the Government. This was really hard. The review petitions put in were at present being forwarded to the Director for his remarks. And naturally, the Director stuck to his original views. The Member suggested that a right of appeal should be granted in cases of refusal of grant by the Director. He also prayed that the Government should give an assurance to the Managers that, if their schools fulfilled certain conditions, they would be recognised and given grants under the Code.

In conclusion, the Member said that the Government were responsible for the existence of the Private schools, which were just as necessary as the Departmental schools. The Managers of the Private schools were in great anxiety as to

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whether they would get grants, having regard to the stringent provisions of the present Code, and they needed specific instructions as to the lines on which they should conduct their schools. The Member prayed that a conference of Managers should be convened for the purpose.

Dewan:—The Director hopes to convene such conferences when he goes out on inspection.

Elementary Education should be made compulsory in towns.

Mr. T. A. Gopala Pye (Member, T. I C. Alwaye) said that the present condition of the generality of the people of the State was not satisfactory and that progress in their social, moral and economic conditions could be achieved only if education was made compulsory. He pointed out that rapid advance was made in these directions by the people of America, Germany and Baroda, where education was compulsory. The Member therefore urged the desirability of introducing compulsory elementary education in the towns at least.

The Member also referred to the difficulty experienced by the student population in the matter of obtaining the Government text books. The supply of books was not sufficient to meet the demand and the agents and booksellers sold the books at exhorbitant rates. He requested that the books should be sold at cost price.

The Dewan then invited the views of some of the other Members in the matter.

Mr. T. Kumara Pillai (Member, Kalkulam taluk) said that the Government contractor sold books at reasonable rates, but his sub-agents had their own way. High rates had to be paid in the mofussil stations. He proposed that the business might be entrusted to the Taluk or Anchal authorities. If this was not feasible, the headmasters or managers of schools might be entrusted with this work.

Mr. K. M. Mammen Mappila (Member, Thiruvella taluk) said that the system of the sale of Government publications through agents would not work well. The business might be given to the head-masters of the Government as well as the Private schools.

Mr. P. M. Chacko, B. A. (Member, T. I. C., Kottayam) said that he agreed with Mr. Mammen Mappilla in his views.

Mr. M. M. Verghese (Member, Trading Classes, Kottayam) proposed that it might do well if the sale was done through the Anchal offices.

Dewan's reply.—The matter of the sale of books will be considered. There is hardly any necessity in Travancore for

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